Andrew Diaz

1) What did you learn and enjoy from staff training?

At staff training I learned a great deal from my colleagues. I learned the importance of “selling a move” and how to implement the tactic; I also picked up a few ideas for goalkeeping. I learned the importance of applying a formation to a small sided game and how to integrate defense for the entire team. I personally received important feedback on coaching a give and go. With the assistance of my fellow trainers, I can successfully implement a full session on progressive passes. I also walked away with a new grid formation for practices as it allows for the minimal amount of time wasted moving cones.

I enjoyed watching the other coaches go through drills and a progression of a practice. These training opportunities are useful and necessary to the growth of a coach. Watching the senior trainers was also something I really enjoyed as I picked up many technical points that I will implement in my personal coaching.

2) What would you like to see in future staff training sessions?

I would like to see more game day related topics in future staff training sessions. Watching a game coached by two of our own was a special treat. It gave insight into the thinking, strategies, and crucial decisions that are made during a game. I thought this was a great opportunity and would like to see more in the future.

In addition to game day topics, I would also like to see more sessions dealing with using different formations to create an opportunity for a successful attack on goal. I thought it was interesting how Simon worked 3 different formations into his tactic and how he targeted both the strongest and weakest player on the opposing team.

3) What would you change for future staff training sessions?

I don’t think that I would change much for future training sessions because they are coordinated so well and are setup to allow the maximum learning experience from our colleagues. If I had to make a request, I would say to allow for more playing time for the coaches. I learned many things from the coaches during the training session. I got to know them better on the pitch; not to mention, it would help in keeping us all in shape.

All in all, a great training session. I can’t wait for the next.